

Pasadena

COMMUNITY

PJCI To Hold Annual Bazaar on October 7

The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute's (PJCI) Annual Bazaar will be held on Sunday, October 7 from noon to 5 p.m. Featured as always are a variety of good food, including sushi, udon, beef and chicken teriyaki, and snow cones. There will be martial arts demonstrations by the PJCI aikido, kendo and judo dojos, and an exhibit of bonsai from the Pasadena Bonsai Club.

The Pasadena Nikkei Seniors will be manning a booth selling their popular handmade crafts and there will be a classroom open displaying the school work of the Pasadena Gakuen students.

Sushi preparation will begin in the morning at 8 a.m. in the auditorium. Volunteer help is always welcome...no experience necessary!

The bazaar will conclude with the raffle drawing, which features the many prizes that are always generously donated by the merchants in the greater Pasadena area. This year's major prizes include a digital camera, a personal digital assistant (PDA) and an electric hot pot.

The Annual Bazaar is the most important fundraiser of the year for the PJCI. Proceeds not only benefit their various organizations, but also help to fund the many improvements that are necessary to maintain the center. Recent improvements include the installation of a security system in the auditorium and renovation of several offices in the commercial building. Future plans include an extensive upgrade of the electrical system, landscaping and signage.

The Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute is located at 595 Lincoln Ave.

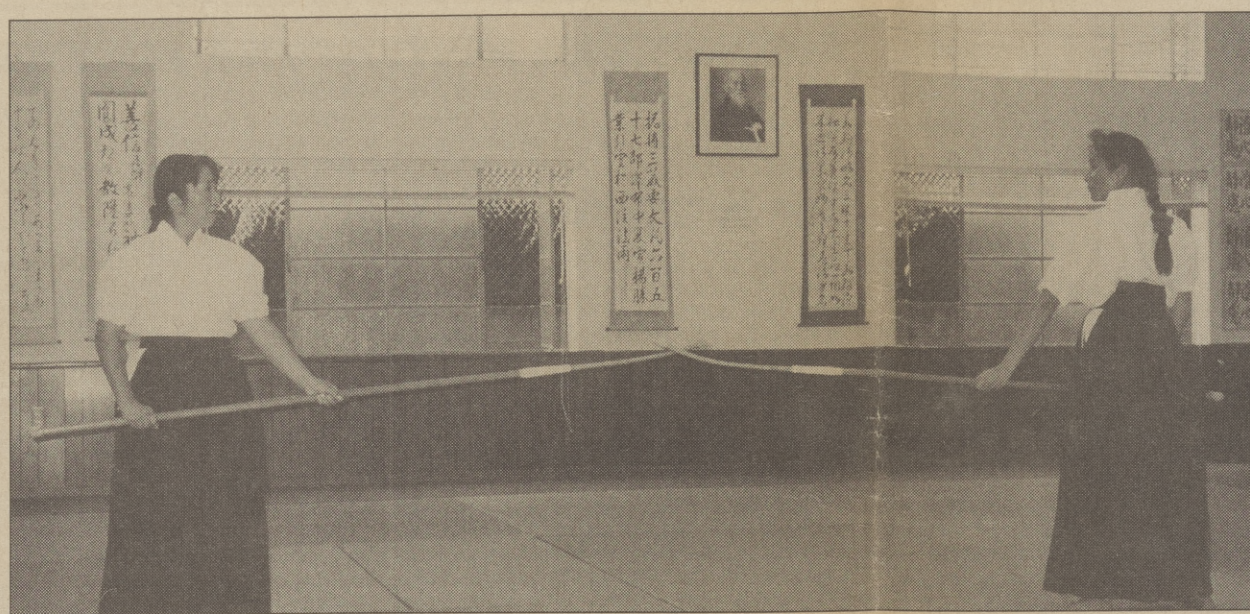
For more information, contact Bryan Takeda at (909) 596-4993 or Ron Toshima at (626) 799-6684.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 7
PJCI Annual Bazaar
(see accompanying article)

October 20
Pasadena Buddhist Church will be having its annual Gourmet Dinner. The dinner includes bbq chicken teriyaki, shrimp and vegetable tempura, tsukemono and rice. Take out from 4:00-6:00 p.m., or dinner will be served in the annex from 5-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8.50. The church is located at 1993 Glen Avenue. For more information, contact Tak Kiriyaama at (626) 798-3897.

November 9
Pasadena Bruins are sponsoring their 2nd Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. It will be held at Brookside Golf Course #2 under a 4-man scramble format. Shotgun start will be at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$125.00 and includes golf, cart, goodie bag, range balls and dinner. The tournament's proceeds will fund scholarships for graduating high school seniors who participated in the Bruin organization. Interested golfers and donors should contact Dan Nakauchi at (626) 564-0485.



The Sweep of a Sword Lives On

Naginata is the study of the use of a sword-like weapon, similar to the European halberd or glaive. The weapon itself consists of a curved blade, 1 to 2 feet in length, mounted onto an oak shaft that was 5 to 9 feet in length. While originally a weapon of war, the naginata now has versions of the weapon made of oak and bamboo that are appropriate for modern competitive sport and the safe study of ancient forms. In feudal Japan, the naginata proved to be a superb weapon for close up fighting on the battlefield with the weapon's long sweeping arcs cutting down mounted warriors and their horses.

Today, at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute, the modern form of naginata, called *atarashi naginata*, is practiced. Naginata practice is systemized according to time honored tradition consisting of strikes, cuts and thrusts from

left and right to various directions. It provides a balanced training with emphasis on form and beauty of movement, with the goal of developing respect for traditional etiquette and spiritual training. In tournament competitions, protective equipment similar to that used in kendo are used. Although naginata training has been associated with women in the past, both men and women practice naginata today throughout the world. Competitions and seminars are held on the local, national and international levels.

Practices are held on Saturday mornings from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute, located at 595 Lincoln Ave. in Pasadena. Beginners and interested individuals are welcome at any time.

For more information, contact Cathy Mikuni at (818) 790-2446.

Pasadena Buddhist Women's Association Marks 50 Years Of Service

On Sunday, September 16th the Pasadena Buddhist Women's Association (Fujinkai) celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a commemorative service and Senbosha memorial service. A donation of a *Gogusoku* (5 altar pieces) was made to the church and all past reverends were invited to attend. Professor Emeritus Reverend Masami Nakagaki and his wife returned from Japan, and Reverend and Mrs. Tetsunen Hirota came to participate in this very special celebration.

Reverend Nakagaki was the first resident minister when Pasadena Buddhist Church moved to its current location in 1958. He shared memories of the newly built temple, which included long trips up to the bay area to pick up parts for the *hondo*.

The English guest speaker for the service was Reverend Midori Kondo. This was another special homecoming for the sangha, as Reverend Kondo is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kameichi Ogawa, who were among the Pasadena Buddhist

Church's founders. Her message was not only her memories of the Pasadena Fujinkai, but a tribute and appreciation to the many women that had formed the Fujinkai. She reminded us that they had a three-fold statement: 1) a deep commitment to support the Sunday School so that there would be an increasing number of young Buddhists in the future 2) to cultivate true and lasting friendship in which they could offer gassho to each other and 3) to deepen their understanding and listen to the teachings.

The Pasadena Buddhist Women's Association (Fujinkai) was started on February 18, 1951 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Yukio Nishimoto. Their primary objective was to listen to the dharma, promote and help the Japanese Language School, and develop friendships and help each other integrate into American society. Through the years, the Fujinkai has played an integral part in serving as the backbone of the church's many fundraising events and activities.



From left, Rev. Midori Kondo, Prof. Emeritus Rev. Masami and Mrs. Nakagaki, Rev. Shinji and Mrs. Okada, Rev. Tetsunen and Mrs. Hirota.

Mishima Hosts Pasadenans at Mt. Fuji Camp

The cities of Pasadena and Mishima, Japan, share a sister city relationship that dates back to 1957. One of the reasons this match was made was because both cities enjoy balmy climates and both are situated at the foot of well known mountains.

The millions of people who watch the Rose Bowl game on January 1st know that Mt. Wilson and the San Gabriel Mountains provide the perfect picturesque backdrop to the action on the gridiron, while Mishima, which is located in eastern Shizuoka Prefecture about 60 miles southeast of Tokyo, is considered a gateway city to majestic Mt. Fuji, Japan's highest mountain.

This past August, Shizuoka Prefecture organized the 2001 Mt. Fuji International Summer Camp, and it asked each of the prefecture's cities to invite students from their international sister cities to participate. Pasadena sent pre-teenagers, Johnny Kamon, Julie Lanselle and Lauren Takeda, along with parent chaperones, Miyeko Kamon and Bryan Takeda. Lauren recounts her adventures in "My First Trip to Japan."

My First Trip to Japan

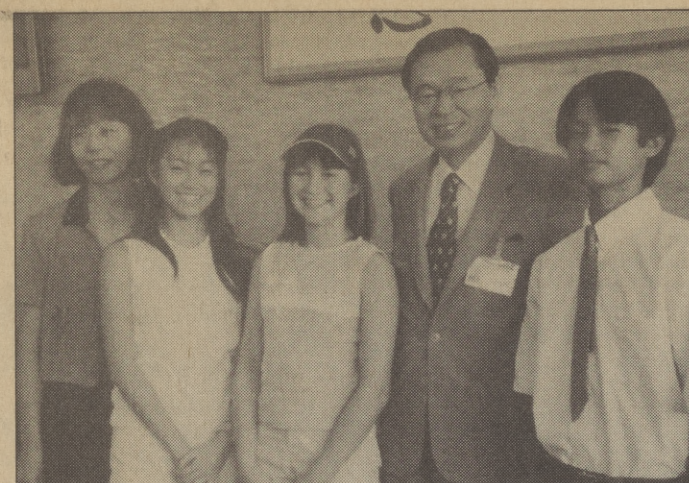
By LAUREN TAKEDA

This past August, I was invited to participate in the first Mt. Fuji International Youth Summer Camp in Fuji City, Japan. Two other students, Johnny Kamon and Julie Lanselle from the Pasadena area, also attended. My dad and Mrs. Kamon went as chaperones. Altogether, there were close to 100 students from Japan, China, Canada and the United States. The camp program included a ferry ride in Shimizu Harbor, staying at *Kodomo no Kuni* (Children's World) near Mt. Fuji and hiking Mt. Fuji. The week ended with a homestay with a very nice family and a visit with the mayor of Mishima City, which is Pasadena's sister city.

This was my first visit to Japan. During the week after camp, we went to stay with many of our relatives. Before leaving for Japan I wondered what it would be like there. Are the people nice? What is the weather like? I was most anxious but also excited about meeting my relatives for the first time. What would they think of me? And will we get along well? I expected that everyone would be very polite and I hoped

to make a lot of new friends. I hoped for an exciting and interesting trip.

When we arrived at the camp, we received a very warm welcome from our Japanese hosts. Although I could only speak a few words in Japanese and my new friends spoke only a few words in English, we became friends overnight. Most of us were around 12-14 years-old. Some of the things we did together were boating, exploring the park, cooking curry dinner, sleeping in *paos* (small huts) and hiking Mt. Fuji. I couldn't take enough pictures of all the new friends I met at camp. I am going to miss them and hope to see them again.



From left, Miyeko Kamon, Lauren Takeda, Julie Lanselle, Mishima Mayor Masaomi Koike, Johnny Kamon.

During my second week in Japan, my dad and I went from Mishima City to Osaka to meet with one of his cousins. We went on the Bullet train. It was very fast, smooth and quiet. While in Osaka, we went to the HEP 5 shopping center where there were many young people. At the top of the center was a huge ferris wheel. When we rode on it, we were able to see how large and crowded it is in Osaka. We also visited the beautiful Osaka Castle.

Next we visited the city of Kyoto. Kyoto has more temples and shrines than any other city in Japan. Kiyomizu Temple, Nijo Castle, the Silver Pavilion, Ryuanji Shrine and the Golden Pavilion were all very beautiful. Kyoto was also where I had the best food. I

had a great dinner of steak teppanyaki, sashimi, edamame, seasoned rice, somen and a fresh fruit sorbet for dessert. I was surprised I was able to eat all of that in one meal.

The smell of incense is a very common scent in Japan. Almost all of the homes in Japan had a *butudan* (Buddhist altar) where incense is burned. One of the most common sounds we heard was the *semi*. Semi are humongous flies that make lots of noise with their wings.

An interesting eating experience was at the Koyasan Hotel where they served *shojin ryo*, which is a vegetarian meal for Buddhist priests. There were many different dishes served for each person. There was too much for me to eat but I was able to try a lot of Japanese food I had never tasted before.


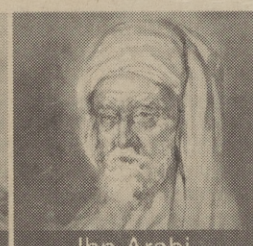
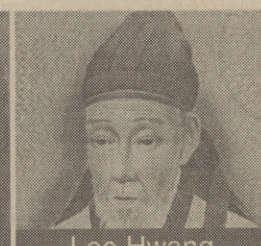
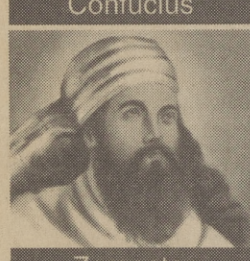
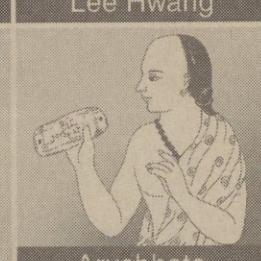
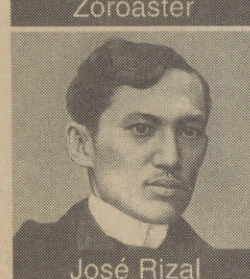


The weather was what I had expected. It was very hot and muggy almost everyday. It is much hotter and muggier in Japan than it is here in California. Everyone in Japan keeps a towel and fan with them to keep cool.

The futons we slept on were comfortable but I like our beds much better. The pillows are very hard in Japan. I had the best night's sleep in the Narita Tokyu Hotel. The worst night's sleep was in the *pao at Kodomo no Kuni. We slept in sleeping bags without a pillow on a hard surface. It wasn't very comfortable. My relatives had futons to sleep on, and after long, busy days of sightseeing, even the futons were comfortable. When I came home, I was very glad to be able to sleep in a normal bed with a soft, fluffy pillow.

I spent too much time looking for gifts for my friends and relatives but I had a lot of fun. It was a little difficult trying to figure out the amount of yen I needed for everything I bought. The shopping centers had different floors for different items. Some of the shopping centers were many levels high.

I have many aunts, uncles and second cousins in Japan and they are all very nice. Although I couldn't always understand much that they said, my relatives and I communicated surprisingly well. I was able to use a few words that I learned in Japanese School. I had a wonderful time with everyone.

I can't wait to visit my relatives in Japan again. I also hope to keep in touch with all my friends I met at camp. I had a great time in Japan. My first trip was an experience I will never forget.

		
Confucius	Ibn Arabi	Lee Hwang
		
Zoroaster	Aryabhata	
		
José Rizal	Chu Van An	Murasaki Shikibu

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The Rafu Shimpō, 259 S. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, Tel: (213) 629-2231

What would you do if you found out your son or daughter was gay or lesbian?

We are Harold and Ellen.

We choose to love and accept our lesbian daughter.

Please remember that all gays and lesbians have parents who love them just like us.

For our gay and lesbian children, we ask for your tolerance and acceptance of them as a part of our community.

Last year 264 people in Los Angeles were victims of hate crimes simply because they were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered.

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